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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 18, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 12 totaled an estimated 15.4 billion ton-miles, 5.5 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 10 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 150.9 billion ton-miles, 4.7 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 12 totaled 356,106 cars, 9.1 percent below 1982, and 1.7 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 15.0 percent in the East, 9.8 percent in the South and 4.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, loadings of lumber and wood products increased by 23.5 percent, while motor vehicles and equipment and grain loadings posted slight gains. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the preceding holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 5 totaled 42,523 cars, up 10.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1982 and 72,803 trailers and/or containers, 8.0 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first nine weeks of the year was 369,681 cars, 15.9 percent higher than last year, and 631,294 trailers and/or containers, up 11.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/12/83:

	Loadings in Week ended March 12, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,234	I	469	1.8	D	2,686	9.0
Other farm products	2,991	D	637	17.6	D	66	2.2
Metallic ores	11,101	D	5,497	33.1	D	128	1.1
Coal	99,558	D	21,808	18.0	D	2,296	2.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	8,100	D	1,745	17.7	I	334	4.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,821	D	730	6.3	I	617	6.0
Grain mill products	11,930	D	648	5.2	I	68	0.6
Food and kindred products	12,199	D	1,842	13.1	D	428	3.9
Primary forest products	14,789	D	2,526	14.6	D	178	1.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,069	I	1,347	23.5	I	209	3.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,135	D	1,970	11.5	D	657	4.2
Chemicals and allied products	24,991	I	863	3.6	D	87	0.3
Petroleum products	4,648	D	26	0.6	I	18	0.4
Stone, clay and glass products	9,451	D	1,082	10.3	I	355	3.9
Coke	4,947	D	342	6.5	I	310	6.7
Metals and products	8,919	D	2,055	18.7	I	164	1.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,430	I	586	3.7	I	251	1.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,468	D	1,146	11.9	I	367	4.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,050	D	548	5.7	I	35	0.9
All other carloads	48,014	I	4,768	11.0	D	2,542	5.0
LCL traffic	261	D	1,137	81.3	I	40	18.1
Total Cars Loaded	356,106	D	35,706	9.1	D	6,300	1.7
Corresponding week of 1982	391,812						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (10 weeks)	3,452,125	3,773,746	D 8.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
9 weeks ended March 5	135.5	142.0	D 4.6
Week ended March 12	15.4	16.3	D 5.5
10 weeks cumulative	150.9	158.3	D 4.7

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